

GREEN COUNTY 2012 BUDGET REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The proposed budget for 2012 as presented here requires a preliminary tax levy of \$16,540,590, which represents actual operating costs for Green County. It is the intent of the Finance Committee to apply projected 2011 sales tax collections in the amount of \$1,800,000 as well as \$107,635 from the undesignated general fund to reduce the net levy to \$14,632,955.

The State budget for 2011-2013 limits the amount municipalities can levy for property taxes to the amount of last year's levy plus the amount of net new construction, with allowances for some items not subject to levy limits. The amount of the 2012 tax levy is the amount allowed under the State's levy limits. Because only a small portion (.5%) of any unused allowable levy may be carried over into the next year, the State is effectively forcing municipalities, including Green County, to levy the maximum allowed or be penalized in future years.

In comparison to the 2011 levy, the 2012 tax levy provides for an increase of \$291,826. The major components of this increase can be attributed to an increase in the Debt Service levy of \$152,062, the carryover amount of unused levy, \$65,045, and the amount allowed for net new construction (.764%), \$92,611. The levy increase, combined with the 2nd year of declining property values in Green County, results in a 2012 levy rate of \$5.72 per \$1000 of property value, as compared to \$5.53 in 2011, and \$5.40 in 2010.

2012 is the 3rd year of the voter approved referendum allowing up to \$890,000 per year to offset the costs of operating the Pleasant View Nursing Home. We have levied \$886,763 for nursing home operations in 2012. We have also set aside another \$200,000 in the capital projects budget for the sprinkler system that must be installed at the nursing home by 2013, total costs of this project are estimated at \$524,132. We will have \$400,000 available in this fund in 2012 and may begin this project next year.

The tax levy also includes other amounts that are excluded from the levy limit. The excluded items are Debt Service payments of \$1,039,213, Bridge & Culvert Repairs of \$4,194 and Library payments of \$423,240.

Personnel costs are projected to decrease in 2012, down from 2011 due to savings realized through the conversion from a self funded health plan to the health insurance plan offered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds, as well as savings through employee retirement contributions from non-union personnel, which were effective in August 2011, and contributions from members of 3 out of 6 unions effective in April 2012.

The County will experience reductions in general state aid in 2012; \$105,712 in State Shared Taxes and \$104,082 in General Transportation Aids. The sum of these two reductions, \$209,794, is approximately three-fourths of the total amount of the levy increase.

Departments were asked to prepare their budgets with a 0% increase in tax levy if possible, a difficult task as they deal with reductions in revenue combined with increased expenses such as utilities, supplies, and fuel. We want to thank the department heads and their committees for the consistent hard work with the Finance Committee to develop a workable budget.

We urge you to study this document carefully and review the supplementary schedules that are included. Questions regarding this budget may be directed to any of the various department heads that provided the basic data contained in the budget, the Finance Committee, or the Accounting office. We submit this 2012 Green County Budget for your consideration and approval.

Finance & Accounting Committee

Harvey Mandel, Chairman